

CHAPTER 7

OPERATIONS SECTION

7-1. Introduction

The Operations Section provides the personnel and equipment required to assist the Company commander in coordinating the employment, management, and operational and technical control of communications equipment installed and operated by the Company.

7-2. Structure

The Section is staffed and equipped to provide 24-hour operations. Operations are conducted in two 12-hour shifts.

a. Mission. The Operations Section provides command and control coordination between the dispersed troposcatter radio terminals and other elements of the TCS(A).

b. Assignment. The Operations Section is organic to the Signal Tropo Company (Heavy), TOE 11-368.

7-3. Command and control

The Operations Section provides the Company commander with control of the Signal Tropo Company (Heavy). The operations officer assists the commander by providing direct supervision over the Operations Section.

a. Operations Section personnel.

(1) The operations officer assists the Company commander in supervisory implementation of communications system control element (CSCE) directives, coordinates the employment of Company elements, and oversees the routine matters related to Company operations.

(2) The C-E operations chief is the senior NCO and accomplishes the following:

(a) Assists the operations officer in Section operations.

(b) Supervises the duty performance of the enlisted members of the Section.

(3) The illustrator prepares system diagrams and graphic circuit traffic diagrams for systems engineering.

(4) A tactical microwave system supervisor, a tactical circuit controller, and a combat telecommunications center operator constitute an operational shift. Two shifts are required for 24-hour operation. Each shift is responsible for routine functions of the Operations Central, technical assistance to resolve systems problems, and informing the officer in charge (OIC) and noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) on status.

(5) The single channel radio operator operates the

vehicular-mounted HF/SSB radio in the Company Command and Technical Control Net.

b. Resources available. The operations officer has the following resources to establish and/or maintain operational control of the Company systems:

(1) Existing common-user telephone network.
 (2) Local message centers.
 (3) Internal telephone network (switchboard and telephones).

(4) HF/SSB radio.

(5) Troposcatter voice orderwire.

(6) Messenger service.

c. Internal communications. The following means of communications will normally be available:

(1) Access to the common-user telephone network.

(2) Internal manual telephone system. Refer to Figure 6-2.

(3) HF/SSB radio Company Command and Control Net. Refer to Figure 6-3.

(4) Troposcatter orderwire.

7-4. Employment

a. The Operations Section provides technical expertise to ensure quality communications on systems and channels which pass through its area. The Section is employed as a single unit.

b. At full strength, the Operations Section is capable of providing—

(1) Technical assistance and control communications.

(2) Circuit and systems information and records.

(3) Display boards and overlay screens.

(4) Internal/external coordination.

(5) Movement coordination.

7-5. Operations

The Operations Section prepares and maintains plans and SOPs affecting Company operations, equipment status information, and status of systems and circuits within the Company's area of responsibility. The Operations Section also implements directives and technical instructions received from the CSCE.

a. Capabilities. The Operations Section provides—

(1) Command and control.

(2) Circuit and systems control.

(3) Equipment status information.

(4) Planning and SOP guidelines.

(5) Technical assistance.

(6) Net control for HF/SSB Command and Technical Control Net(s).

b. Limitations.

(1) The Section depends on Company Headquarters for administrative, logistical, food service, billeting, and personal service.

(2) Company Headquarters provides unit level maintenance on vehicles, environmental control equipment, and power generators. The Company C-E Maintenance Section provides intermediate (DS) maintenance on organic C-E and COMSEC equipment.

c. Defense.

(1) Operations Section personnel may be used to assist in a limited, coordinated defense of the installation or area of assignment. This may include rear battle operations, operations in an internal defense, or operations under NBC conditions.

(2) Due to the critical nature of the Section's mission and the limited number of assigned person-

nel, personnel should be used only during extreme emergencies.

d. Mobility.

(1) The Operations Section has the following vehicles:

(a) Truck utility: ¾-ton W/E M1009.

(b) Truck cargo: 2½-ton 6x6.

(2) Additional transportation for personnel, equipment, or supplies must be provided.

7-6. Deployment

The Operations Section will normally be collocated with the largest concentration of troposcatter elements of the Signal Tropo Company (Heavy), and in the general vicinity of the Company Headquarters element.